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BIENNIAL REPORT 1957 - 1958

MONTANA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

STATE PARKS DIVISION

TO

HON. J. HUGO ARONSON, GOVERNOR

AND

MEMBERS OF THE

36TH MONTANA LEGISLATURE

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State Park Director

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MONTANA

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

STATE PARKS DIVISION

1957 - 1958

Honorable J. Hugo Aronson, Governor
State of Montana
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

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Members
36th Montana Legislature

Dear Governor Aronson
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Members of the 36th Montana Legislature:

Transmitted herewith is the Biennial Report of the State Parks Division of the Montana Highway Commission.

The report covers the activities of the Parks Division during the current biennium and includes recommendations for the consideration of the Governor and the Legislature.

Yours very truly,

STATE PARKS DIVISION

Ashley C. Roberts
Director

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

STATE PARKS DIVISION

1957 -- 1958

REPORT TO GOVERNOR / LEGISLATURE

Two years ago we reported that the park system in Montana embraced fifteen areas. During the biennium we have added five new areas to the system and now have a total of twenty state parks and state monuments. These new parks have given us a better geographical distribution in the state as well as adding some outstanding attractions for use by the people of Montana as well as the many visitors we have each year. Additional areas are becoming available to the Park Division and will be brought into the system as soon as adequate funds for their operation and maintenance are available.

So far as the present system is concerned the Parks Division has added many new facilities and made a number of badly needed improvements. These will be brought to your attention as we discuss the individual parks.

ACTIVITIES

In carrying out the duties assigned to the Highway Commission for Parks Division affairs, we respectfully report as follows:

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS STATE PARK

The Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park continues to be the feature park of the system. In 1957 we reached a record high attendance of 43,750 paid admissions. The attendance in 1958 was down about 10% from 1957 in paid admissions. We attribute this to the reduced attendance at Yellowstone National Park as our reduction matched theirs almost exactly during the entire season. Our campers and picnickers attendance, however, was up considerably. Under normal conditions we can accommodate some thirty campers in the camping areas; however, day after day we counted fifty to sixty campers in the areas and on more than one occasion as high as seventy-five. To say the least the park was over-crowded and over-used most of the time.

Improvements at the Caverns during the biennium were many. New picnic tables were placed, new fireplaces installed, the parking area was enlarged, the entrance building area was landscaped, a new double unit latrine was constructed, the access road was improved as well as trail and lighting improvements in the Caverns.

The most important improvements involved the water system, sewage system and the new train on the railroad. The water system was entirely renovated. The collection area for water was improved, a sand filter placed, and the area fenced. The new storage tanks were installed and the existing tanks cleaned. A new automatic pumping unit was installed together with a chlorinator for purification of the water. A new water line to the lower picnic area was installed to provide water for that area. A new water line to the Headquarters building was placed and a drinking fountain installed.

With the gathering system improved and the additional storage space, we expect to have ample water to operate the new flush toilet system being installed at the Headquarters building in the fall of 1958. This work involved quite a changeover from the present tank type installation which has been entirely inadequate. A large new septic tank is a part of the system and the sewage line from the Cafe-Curio Shop will be connected with the new sewage system.

The new train consisting of engine and passenger car was put into operation at the beginning of the 1958 season. It proved to be quite an attraction as well as a considerable safety improvement in the movement of the guided tours from the Headquarters building to the cave entrance.

BANNACK STATE MONUMENT

Visitor interest in Bannack, Montana's first territorial capital, continues at a high level each year. Current improvements to the secondary road leading from Dillon to the Big Hole Basin will make access to Bannack much easier, and we should have even more traffic in the years ahead.

Improvements to Bannack have been rather minor but they have been important. A new double latrine was constructed in the town area, a new picnic and camping area has been developed and both areas fenced, new picnic tables and fireplaces have been added, a road to the cemetery on top of the hill behind Hangman's Gulch was built, and new signs were erected. General clean-up and maintenance of the town and the picnic and camping areas has to be watched carefully.

Many improvements are quite badly needed at Bannack. A considerable amount of maintenance and repairs to the buildings should be undertaken at once to prevent further deterioration. A new supply of water needs to be developed, as the old well has become contaminated. A new registration desk is being built and will be placed by the spring of 1959. This should be supplemented by a display which will tell the story of Bannack.

BITTERROOT LAKE STATE PARK

The Youth Camp located at Bitterroot Lake State Park, which is operated by the Lions Club of Kalispell, continues to improve each year and provide camping experience for some 500 to 600 young folk each summer. The public area which is operated and maintained by the Parks Division grows in popularity each year and operated at full capacity most of the time during the 1957 and 1958 seasons.

Improvements at Bitterroot Lake State Park have made the area much more usable and inviting. New picnic tables have been added, new fireplaces have been placed, two new latrines have been constructed and the old latrines have been cleaned and renovated. The most important improvement has been the reconstruction of the water system. A new pump and motor were installed and the water line extended to serve the public area as well as the Youth Camp. Floodlights were placed in the public area from extensions in the Youth Camp. Both the water project and the lighting were done in cooperation with the Lions Club.

BRIDGER MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Bridger Mountain State Park, located sixteen miles north of Bozeman in Bridger Canyon, continues to operate as one of Montana's finest skiing areas. The Bozeman State Park Recreation Association (an association of Bozeman residents) operates all the facilities and during the past two years has made some substantial improvements. A new tow has been added which takes the skiers nearly to the top of the ski bowl, a ski jump has been added and new tows have been placed on the "Bunny" hills.

The Parks Division has continued to cooperate in this project by making improvements to the access roads and by improvements to the parking area. As soon as possible the Parks Division will install picnic and camping facilities so that the area may be used during the summer months.

Montana State College and Gallatin County High School use the area for their ski classes, and the area is packed on week-ends with skiiers from all parts of the state.

CANYON FERRY RECREATIONAL AREA

Canyon Ferry Recreational Area, located on Canyon Ferry Reservoir near Helena, continues to be a busy place each summer. The 1958 season was one of the busiest so far as recreation is concerned since the reservoir has been completed and filled with water. The fishing has fallen off from what it was a few years ago, but other forms of recreation have more than made up for this particular activity. Boating, water skiing and swimming are more popular than ever.

The recreational areas need many more facilities than the Parks Division has been able to provide. However, we have accomplished the following: new picnic tables and fireplaces have been added, new latrines have been constructed, three more miles of access roads have been constructed and we now have approximately 125 cabin sites leased. Three new day use areas are being prepared and will need to be developed immediately.

Because Canyon Ferry is so favorably located and because of a new highway constructed to the reservoir from U. S. Highway 10, we expect the recreational use to continue at a high level for many years.

FLATHEAD LAKE STATE PARK

This park, located near Big Arm on Flathead Lake, continues to be one of the popular recreation areas on the lake.

During the past two years we have had to increase our maintenance work and have made a number of improvements in the facilities. New picnic tables and fireplaces have been added and four new latrines have been constructed. A new picnic and camping area has been developed which will add to the capacity of the park.

Just as soon as we can afford it we intend to install a water system and flood lighting. We have found that an ample supply of good potable water is very necessary in any park area, and floodlighting helps the campers at night as well as reducing vandalism.

FORT OWEN STATE MONUMENT

With the cooperation of interested individuals and groups in Stevensville and the Bitterroot Valley generally, the Parks Division has managed to make some improvements at Fort Owen State Monument.

Classes in Archaeology from the Montana State University, under the supervision of Dr. Carling Malouf, did some excavation work at the Fort and discovered many interesting and valuable artifacts. These are being classified by Dr. Malouf and will be made available to us when needed for the projected museum at the Fort. New floors have been constructed in the barracks building and new walls where required. New doors and windows were also placed in the building. Additional parking space has been arranged, and other improvements in the way of interpretation will be added as rapidly as possible.

HELL CREEK STATE PARK

The recreation use of Hell Creek State Park on Fort Peck Reservoir has improved during the last two years. One reason for the increased use is the raise in the level of the Reservoir so that the water is now fairly close to the installations. Another reason which is perhaps more important is the new road from Jordan to Hell Creek. The construction of this new road was undertaken jointly by the Parks Division and Garfield County, and a considerable amount of volunteer work helped get the road completed. The new road cuts the driving distance some ten miles and is a much easier road to negotiate.

The Parks Division maintains a caretaker at Hell Creek for a four month period during the recreation season. No new facilities have been placed because we have ample to take care of the number of people that use the area.

HOOPER STATE PARK

Hooper State Park is rapidly becoming a real attraction on the Central Montana Highway. Since the connecting links on this highway have been completed the traffic has increased steadily, and Hooper is proving to be an ideal picnic and camping spot for travelers.

New picnic tables and fireplaces have been added to the park and by spring of 1959 we expect to develop a water supply for the park. This will consist of an automatic pump, pressure tank and distribution system. New latrine facilities will have to be added as soon as possible.

LONE PINE STATE PARK

Lone Pine State Park continues to be popular with residents of Kalispell and the surrounding area.

Improvements to Lone Pine have been minor. A few picnic tables and fireplaces have been added as well as latrine facilities. The big need at Lone Pine, however, is water. It appears that this is going to be a rather expensive project with the result that we have had to postpone any action until we have the necessary funds.

Lone Pine provides an excellent overlook of the entire Flathead Valley and, with the installation of a water system and a few other improvements, can become an outstanding scenic area.

LOST CREEK STATE PARK

Lost Creek State Park near Anaconda is a new park that has been added to the system during the current biennium.

The Parks Division has a "Use Permit" from the U. S. Forest Service on this 420 acre tract of land and, prior to the installation of any facilities, it was necessary for us to submit a Master Plan for development. This plan has now been submitted and approved by the Forest Service and we are now starting the development work. A few picnic tables and fireplaces have been installed, and by next spring we expect to make some changes in the access road and install additional facilities. We hope to have a full operation going by the summer of 1959.

MAKOSHIKA STATE PARK

Makoshika State Park is rapidly becoming an outstanding attraction in eastern Montana and we expect its popularity to continue to grow each year.

The most significant improvement at Makoshika has been the addition of some 623 acres of Public Domain to the park area. This additional acreage is being leased from the Bureau of Land Management and, with the original 160 acres given to the state by Dawson County, gives us an area of almost 800 acres in the park. We now have much more room to operate in and now have an attractive unit to present to the public.

Other improvements consist of maintenance and improvements to the access road, new picnic tables and fireplaces as well as directional signs on the highways leading into Glendive.

MEDICINE ROCKS STATE PARK

Medicine Rocks State Park is a new area that has been added to the system in the current biennium. The area contains many striking rock formations -- spirals, archways, columns and caves.

We have placed facilities such as picnic tables, fireplaces and latrines. Medicine Rocks has had heavy use since it has been opened as a State Park and we will need to add more facilities as rapidly as possible. A water supply is one of the most important projects to be completed as soon as funds are available. A new access road was completed in the spring of 1958.

MISSOURI RIVER HEADWATERS STATE MONUMENT

The Missouri Headwaters State Monument continues to be a popular area with visitors from other states as well as Montana residents. Each year we find the number of visitors increasing, and the camping and picnic facilities in 1958 were more crowded than ever.

A number of improvements have been made during the past two years including new latrines, more picnic tables and fireplaces, new descriptive signs, a foot bridge over a channel of the river which leads to the Headwaters point, an overlook building which will be completed by spring of 1959, and other minor improvements to the landscaping and the trees.

The Headwaters Point will continue to grow in popularity and we are soon going to need additional space to handle the visitors.

ROCK CREEK STATE PARK

Rock Creek State Park, located on Fort Peck Reservoir some thirty-five miles south of the spillway, has noted an increase in use during the last two years. This increase in visitation is largely the result of the new highway construction on Montana 24 which brings a good road within approximately six miles of the park. When this road is completed to the Central Montana Highway we may expect a further increase in traffic. In addition, the level of Fort Peck Reservoir has been raised which makes for better boating, fishing and swimming.

The facilities have been properly maintained, but nothing new has been added as we have ample facilities available.

TIBER RESERVOIR RECREATION AREAS

Tiber Reservoir has become famous almost nation-wide as one of the "hottest" fishing spots in the State of Montana. Because of this popularity, it has received extremely heavy use during the last two years. We estimate the annual attendance at about 50,000.

The Parks Division has been able to place picnic tables, fireplaces and some latrines in the day use areas, but not nearly enough to take care of the needs of the areas. In addition, there has been some tree planting and other improvements made by cooperating groups. Perhaps the most important

area development has been that of the V.F.W. Post of Chester and Rudyard who have developed a public use area near the dam.

We expect that Tiber will continue to grow in popularity each year because of the fine fishing, the popularity of boating and water sports and the other recreational activities available around the reservoir. The Parks Division will have to add a great deal more in the way of facilities to adequately serve the public.

Tiber is a new area that has been added to the system during the current biennium.

WEST SHORE STATE PARK

West Shore State Park is rapidly becoming a popular camping and picnic spot on Flathead Lake. Visitors started early in the spring of 1958 and kept the park busy all summer. Night after night the camping areas were full and potential campers had to be turned away.

In the way of improvements the Parks Division added more picnic tables, fireplaces and improved the access road. The most important improvement that has yet to be done is the installation of an adequate water system. This must be accomplished just as soon as funds are available.

WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK

Whitefish Lake State Park is a new addition to the state park system. The property involved contains fifteen acres and is being presented to the state by the Whitefish Junior Chamber of Commerce. It is located at the southwestern end of the lake.

The park has a beautiful setting on the lake and is heavily timbered. The first improvement work involved the construction of an access road and the clearing of underbrush. A considerable amount of beach clearing has been done and we appreciate the help of the Junior Chamber of Commerce on this work. Picnic tables, fireplaces and latrines have been installed. A contract will be let this fall for the drilling of a well.

As the park develops, there will be more clearing done, more road constructed, beach clearing and many more picnic tables, fireplaces and at least two more latrines installed.

In spite of the fact that this is a new park and relatively undeveloped, it received a considerable amount of use during the summer of 1958. As we are able to add the necessary facilities it promises to become a very popular state park.

YELLOW BAY STATE PARK

Yellow Bay State Park is the most heavily used area on Flathead Lake. It has an ideal setting and an excellent beach. It is very popular with travelers as well as local residents in the Flathead area.

Because of the heavy use this park receives, the Parks Division concentrated much of its efforts at this location. Additional area was

cleared, roads built, and more picnic tables and fireplaces added until now the area is double its original capacity. There is still room for more tables and fireplaces which will be added in the spring of 1959.

One of the big improvements made is the development of a good water supply for the park. This was done by the Parks Division and, through the courtesy of the Yellow Bay Community Club, a beautiful rock drinking fountain was constructed which makes a beautiful addition to the Park.

Yellow Bay will continue to be a popular park on Flathead Lake and will have to be properly maintained and cared for at all times.

CHIEF JOSEPH BATTLEFIELD OF THE BEAR'S PAW

The Chief Joseph Battlefield located south of Chinook is a new area which was added to the park system in the fall of 1958.

Because the area is so new, the Parks Division has not as yet had an opportunity to start any development work. Activities contemplated include new directional signs to be located on U. S. Highway 2, improvements to the access road, improvements to the markers on the battlefield and the installation of a parking area. When sufficient funds are available, the Parks Division will install some picnic tables, fireplaces, latrines and an overlook building.

The Chief Joseph Battlefield is an important historical site and we hope to improve it to the point where it will be well presented to the public and tell the story of the trials and tribulations of Chief Joseph.

* * * * *

SUMMARY OF FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE PARK SYSTEM IN THE BIENNIUM

Facilities added to the system include:

Picnic Tables	300	@ $35.00 Each	$10,500.00
Fireplaces	250	@ 25.00 "	6,250.00
Latrines (double and single)	20		6,000.00
Water Systems	6		11,750.00
Signs (directional and information)	80		2,500.00
Floodlighting Systems	2		800.00
Cabin Sites (Surveyed & Leased)	110	(surveying)	1,000.00
Access Roads (miles built or improved)	20		
Equipment (new and replaced)			15,000.00
Plumbing System Revision			10,000.00
		TOTAL -	$63,800.00

All park areas have been maintained, buildings repaired and painted, garbage and litter removed and other necessary maintenance taken care of by the use of full-time or part-time caretakers. As the park system continues to grow and expand, the maintenance problem also continues to grow. Good maintenance is a very necessary item and it is the intention of the Parks Division to keep the parks clean and presentable at all times.

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE AT ALL PARKS

1958 SEASON

Bannack State Monument	2,500
Bitterroot Lake State Park	2,500
Canyon Ferry Recreation Areas	40,000
Flathead Lake State Park	20,000
Fort Owen State Monument	1,000
Hell Creek State Park	1,500
Hooper State Park	4,000
Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park	55,000
Lone Pine State Park	2,500
Makoshika State Park	20,000
Medicine Rocks State Park	5,000
Missouri River Headwaters State Monument	15,000
Tiber Reservoir Recreational Areas	50,000
West Shore State Park	20,000
Whitefish Lake State Park	1,000
Yellow Bay State Park	25,000
TOTAL	265,000

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The State Parks Advisory Committee continues to operate in a very satisfactory manner. The committee is comprised of individuals appointed by civic groups or chambers of commerce in communities adjacent to one or more of the state parks or state monuments. It is to be understood that this committee is purely voluntary and the members serve without compensation and the members attend meetings at their own expense. At least two meetings are held each year to review Parks Division activities and the committee offers suggestions and recommendations with respect to our operations. In their own communities and with respect to the particular parks they are concerned with, the individual members have worked diligently and unceasingly for the benefit of the system. The results of the activities of this committee have been most gratifying and the committee will be continued in operation.

In addition to the Advisory Committee mentioned above, we have organized another Committee which deals with Historic Sites only. This committee is just a year old and operates in much the same fashion as the parent Advisory Committee. We anticipate that this committee will be of great assistance to our operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As will be noted from the above activities, the Parks Division is assuming a monumental task and is attempting to do this job with a modest budget. We believe, however, that our available dollars have been put to work quite effectively and we take a certain amount of pride in our accomplishments.

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In order that we may carry out the basic tasks assigned by law, we are planning many improvements to the existing parks and an orderly expansion in the years to come. So that we may accomplish this job and provide Montana with an adequate park system, we recommend as follows:

1. The present park system should be brought up to standard and the necessary facilities installed, improved and augmented to the point where they will be adequate to handle the number of visitors we receive each year.

2. We should anticipate the fact that all types of recreational activities are going to increase each year and we should gear our operations accordingly.

3. The park system should undergo an orderly expansion, keeping our basic purposes in mind at all times. In order to do this we should:

   a. Acquire and set aside the many historic places of note in Montana.

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b. Acquire and set aside additional scenic and recreational areas so that they may be preserved inviolate for all time to come.

c. Provide the necessary maintenance and facilities so that the general public may enjoy these areas to the fullest extent possible.

MAY 8 '59

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MONTANA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Harry L. Burns, Chairman
L. V. Swanson, Vice Chairman
S. N. Halvorson
Otis S. Waters
Roy L. Sorrells

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BY Ashley C. Roberts, Director
State Parks Division

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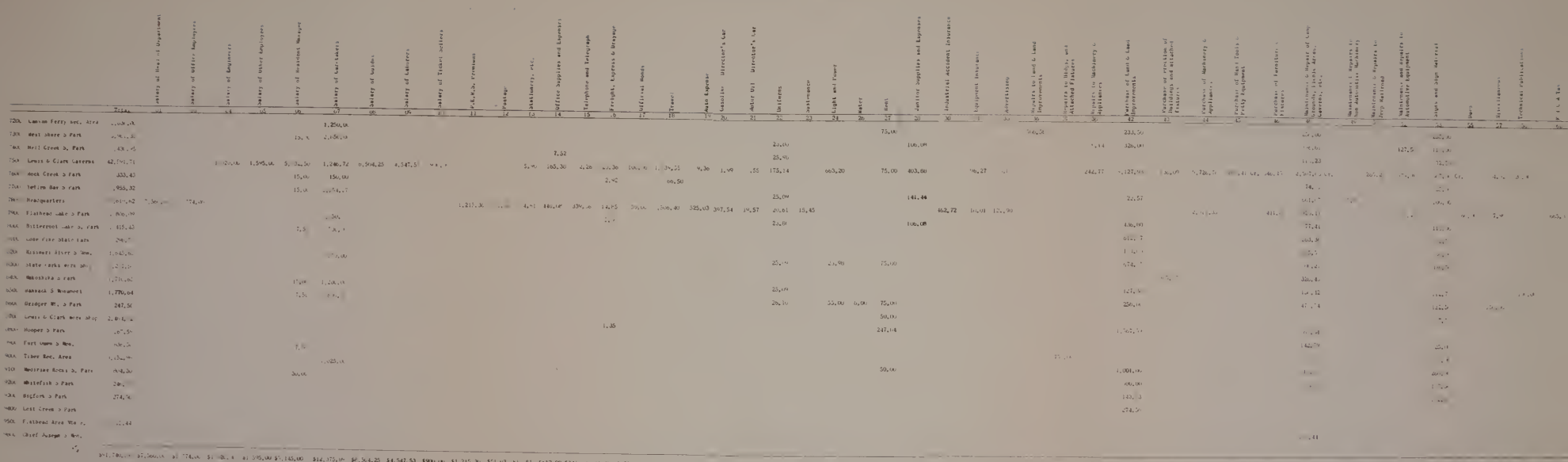
PARMLY BILLINGS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BILLINGS, MONTANA

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
STATE PARKS DIVISION
Helena, Montana

STATE PARKS DIVISION EXPENSE ACCOUNT DETAIL
FISCAL PERIOD JULY 1, 1957 - JUNE 30, 1958



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FEATURING
WORLD-FAMOUS **Lewis and Clark Caverns**

Lewis and Clark Caverns

STALACTITES • STALAGMITES
JEEP RAILWAY • GUIDED TOURS

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS State Park is an underground wonderland of colorful limestone. Stalactites, stalagmites, clusterites and flowstone, shaped by nature into strange formations, line a three-quarter mile path.
Naturally air-conditioned, the caverns are electrically lighted, and are dry and safe to explore. Well-built trails all lead down-hill. The inside temperature is 46 degrees the year around.
A free picnic and camping area is provided. The park is just off U. S. Highway 10-S, 47 miles east of Butte on a direct route between Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks.

The cavern tour takes 1½ hours. All tours are guided. No special clothing is necessary.
Light lunches and curios may be procured at a cafe-curio shop at the Headquarters area.
A novel jeep railway and a tram lift take visitors to the cavern entrance.

ADMISSION CHARGE:
Adults - - - $1.00 Children 6 through 12 - - - $ .50
Open May 1 - September 30

BRIDGER MOUNTAIN STATE PARK is a winter sports area which boasts of one of the finest ski areas in the Pacific Northwest. Two "T" bar tows take the skier high up the slopes of the Bridger Range for an exhilarating and thrilling experience. "Bunny slopes" are provided for the novice and a ski jump challenges the more experienced. Bridger Mountain State Park is located 16 miles north of Bozeman off U. S. Highway 10.

HOOPER STATE PARK offers picnic and camping facilities in a forest setting west of the Rogers Pass crossing of the Continental Divide. Hooper is one of the newer parks in the state park system and is ideal for an overnight stay or a week-end in the cool mountain region north of Helena. It is located on Highway 20 near Lincoln.

FORT PECK RESERVOIR has two state parks. One is Rock Creek located 35 miles south of the spillway and the other is Hell Creek located 26 miles north of Jordan off Highway 18. Camping, picnicking and water sports are offered at each park with some of Montana's most scenic badlands for a backdrop. Both of these parks are in remote areas; good directions are essential. Roads are adequate in dry weather.

CANYON FERRY RECREATION AREA, on a lake formed by a new Missouri River dam, is popular with picnickers, campers, boaters, and fishermen. Camping and picnic facilities are convenient. Canyon Ferry is located off U. S. Highway 10-N near Helena.

TIBER RESERVOIR RECREATION AREA has several recreation areas that are new to the park system and are just being developed. Tiber is rapidly becoming famous as the "hottest" fishing spot in Montana due to a rehabilitation program undertaken by the State Fish and Game Department. Camping and picnic facilities are available. It's located south of U. S. 2 near Chester.

LOST CREEK STATE PARK is one of Montana's newest. It features Lost Creek Falls where sparkling water cascades over sheer rock in a setting of evergreens, willows and aspens. Lost Creek flows through the bottom of a 3,000-foot-deep canyon topped with towering limestone pinnacles. The park is reached from U. S. Highway 10-A near Anaconda.

Flathead Area Parks

Flathead area in northwestern Montana, just west and south of Glacier National Park, is one of the finest natural recreation areas in the nation.

Flathead Lake, a deep blue, fresh-water lake, is fed by sparkling mountain streams flowing down from the snow-capped peaks of the Montana Rockies, and is bordered by tall, fragrant evergreens. Here are abundant opportunities for recreation — picnicking, camping, fishing, swimming, boating and all types of water sports.

FLATHEAD LAKE STATE PARK is one of three state parks located on Flathead Lake. Adjacent to the highway and easily accessible, the park itself is a strip of land 200 feet deep along some 1500 feet of shore line. Here the traveler will find picnic tables, fireplaces, sanitary facilities and easy access to the beach. Camping is permitted and trailers will find parking space available. Small boats may be launched from the shore and good fishing will be found in the bay area.

WEST SHORE STATE PARK is one of the newer parks on the Flathead Lake. Picnic tables, fireplaces and sanitary facilities are provided. There is room for camping and limited space is available for small trailers. From the shoreline of this park one has an outstanding view of the lake with the rugged Mission Mountains in the background — a sight one will not soon forget.

YELLOW BAY STATE PARK has one of the most attractive settings on the entire lake. An excellent beach is available for swimmers and boats may be launched with ease. On any day during the summer months one will find swimmers enjoying the cool waters of the lake and water skiers having the time of their lives on the sheltered waters of the bay. Camping and picnicking facilities are provided and limited space is available for trailers.

MAKOSHIKA STATE PARK is an outstanding badlands area in eastern Montana, where centuries of wind and water have eroded limestone cliffs into strange and wonderful formations. Early morning and late evening sunlight add special charm to the scenery. The word "Makoshika" (mah-KO'-she-ka) is Sioux for "hell cooled over." This park is reached from U. S. Highway 10 at Glendive.

BITTERROOT LAKE STATE PARK is set up primarily for use as a youth camp and is operated by the Lions Club of Kalispell. Adjacent to the youth camp area is a public area which is provided with picnic and camping facilities. Bitterroot Park has a picturesque setting and is ideal for a picnic or an overnight stay. Plan to include it on your trip through the Flathead country.

LONE PINE STATE PARK is located just south and west of Kalispell on a hill top and provides an unusually scenic picnic spot with a panoramic view of the entire Flathead valley.

WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK is located on Whitefish Lake just a mile or so from the city of Whitefish. Picnic and camping facilities are available and the traveler will enjoy the scenic and restful atmosphere of beautiful Whitefish Lake. The park is off U. S. Highway 93 and is not far from Glacier National Park.

MEDICINE ROCKS STATE PARK preserves striking rock formations — spirals, columns, archways, caves. In the summer sun, the rocks are intensely white; by moonlight they look like molten silver. In this weird setting, Indians once held medicine dances. An interesting picnic site, this park is also a favorite with photographers. It is near Ekalaka on Highway 7.

Old hotel at Bannack

Headwaters Point

State Monuments

BANNACK STATE MONUMENT is located at the first territorial capital of Montana. Now a ghost town, Bannack is a reminder of gold rush days and preserves scenes familiar to the miners, gamblers, bandits and gold-seekers of the 1860's. One may clearly visualize all this as he strolls through the deserted streets of this once-busy metropolis. Bannack is located off U. S. 91 near Dillon.

FORT OWEN STATE MONUMENT, now being restored, is the site of a pioneer fort and trading post near Montana's first white settlement. Established by Major Owen, this post brought the first business establishment to western Montana. Now being brought back to life, the old fort will once again reflect the glory of an earlier day.

MISSOURI RIVER HEADWATERS STATE MONUMENT, one of the most important of the west's historical sites, marks the confluence of the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers. Discovered in 1805 by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the headwaters today form a living monument to the explorers. A marked trail leads the visitor to points of special interest. Camping and picnic facilities are available. The Headwaters are located off U. S. 10 near Three Forks, and may be visited on a short side trip.

Montana State Parks

Park	Location	Picnicking	Fishing	Swimming	Boating	Camping	Historical Site	Unusual Scenery	Winter Sports
Bannack State Monument	21 Mi. W. of Dillon off U. S. 91	●				●	●		
Bitterroot Lake S.P.	20 Mi. W. of Kalispell and 5 Mi. N. of U. S. 2 at Marion	●	●	●	●	●			
Bridger Mt. S.P.	16 Mi. N. of Bozeman in Bridger Canyon								●
Canyon Ferry	20 Mi. S.E. of Helena off U. S. 10 N.	●	●	●	●	●			
Flathead Lake S.P.	15 Mi. N. of Polson on U. S. 93	●	●	●	●	●			
Fort Owen S.M.	At Stevensville						●		
Hell Creek S.P.	26 Mi. N. of Jordan off Mont. 18	●	●	●	●	●			
Hooper S.P.	At Lincoln on Mont. 20	●				●			
Lewis & Clark Caverns	18 Mi. E. of Whitehall on U. S. 10-S	●				●		●	
Lone Pine S.P.	3 Mi. S.W. of Kalispell off U. S. 2	●				●		●	
Lost Creek S.P.	6 Mi. N. of Anaconda off U. S. 10-A	●				●		●	
Makoshika S.P.	3 Mi. S. of Glendive off U. S. 10	●				●		●	
Medicine Rocks S.P.	12 Mi. N. of Ekalaka on Mont. 7	●						●	
Missouri River Headwaters S.M.	3 Mi. E. of Three Forks and 3 Mi. N. of U. S. 10	●	●			●	●	●	
Rock Creek S.P	35 Mi. S. of Fort Peck on E. shore of Ft. Peck Reservoir	●	●	●	●	●			
Tiber Reservoir	18 Mi. S.W. of Chester off U. S. 2	●	●	●	●	●			
West Shore S.P.	20 Mi. S. of Kalispell on U. S. 93 on Flathead Lake	●	●	●	●	●			
Whitefish Lake S.P.	3 Mi. W. of Whitefish on U. S. 93	●	●	●	●	●			
Yellow Bay S.P.	20 Mi. N. of Polson on Mont. 35	●	●	●	●	●			

Parks Division — Montana Highway Commission — Helena

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